

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 CIEP-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /104 W

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R 101733Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 540

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5275

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF

SUBJECT: EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS- MEETING, DUBLIN, APRIL 8&9;

MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM

1. ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICER (BARTOLOMEO ATTOLICO, POLITICAL OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST - XGDS-1) TODAY GAVE EMBOFF HIGHLY SUMMARIZED ACCOUNT OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. THE NINE, HE SAID, CONSIDERED HOW THEY MIGHT BE HELPFUL BUT CONCLUDED THAT THEY

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WERE INSUFFICIENTLY INFORMED ON RECENT EVENTS TO BE ABLE

CONFIDENTLY TO CHART A USEFUL COURSE. ON ITALIAN INITIATIVE (WHICH HAD FIRST BEEN FLOATED IN JANUARY BUT HAD SHOALED ON FRENCH OBJECTIONS), NINE DECIDED TO CONCERT THEIR INFORMATION WITH THE IRISH EC PRESIDENCY, INSTRUCTING THE PRESIDENCY TO APPROACH USG FOR AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, VIEWS AND PLANS. NINE WOULD DECIDE ON WHAT FURTHER STEPS, IF ANY, WERE DESIRABLE, AFTER HEARING IRISH REPORT.

2. SOURCE TOOK PAINS TO EMPHASIZE FOLLOWING. FRENCH WENT ALONG WITH THIS INITIATIVE WITH RELUCTANCE. HOWEVER, OPPORTUNITY IS NOW AT HAND TO LEND SOME REAL SUBSTANCE TO CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, BENEFITING POTENTIALLY NOT ONLY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST BUT THE FUTURE US/EC RELATIONSHIP. SOURCE SAID NINE APPRECIATED THAT US POLICY REVIEW IS STILL IN COURSE, BUT URGED THAT USG BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE WHEN APPROACHED BY PRESIDENCY. BY IMPLICATION ONLY, HE INDICATED THAT FAILURE TO RESPOND WITH A MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION WOULD BE A SETBACK AND WOULD REINFORCE THE SKEPTICAL FRENCH VIEW AS TO THE VALUE OF A CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM. BEAUDRY

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